



## **TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

*A Public Health: Everyone, Everyday, Everywhere®*



### **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children State Plan of Operations FY 2002**

This is a proposed plan pending approval by the  
United States Department of Agriculture  
Food and Nutrition Services

The public is provided the opportunity to comment on the State Plan  
through the Department's WIC Program web site: [www.tdh.state.tx.us/wic/hd](http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/wic/hd).

Email your comments to: [wicgeneral@tdh.state.tx.us](mailto:wicgeneral@tdh.state.tx.us)

and type “State Plan Comment” as the subject of the message.)

# **FY 2002 WIC State Plan**

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## INTRODUCTION

The Texas Department of Health's Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), is an integral component of the Texas public health system. According to the TDH Comprehensive Strategic and Operational Plan Fiscal Years 2001-2002, over the past century TDH has assumed two major public health responsibilities: ensuring essential public health functions are performed to protect and promote the health of the public and maintaining a health care safety net for the medically indigent and those with special health care needs. Although all programs at TDH contribute to both areas, TDH has placed programs into one of five descriptive categories: Health Care Safety Net programs, Public Health Technical Expertise programs, Condition-Specific programs, Regulatory programs, and Administrative Offices. WIC is one of the 31 Health Care Safety Net programs.

At TDH most safety net programs primarily serve women and children and the Health Care Safety Net programs either purchase health services for eligible clients or provide health care services directly. The WIC Program is an example of the latter in its role as an adjunct to good health care. TDH WIC's mission statement reflects both the specific safety net focus on women and children and the provision of services including access to health care.

### ***TDH WIC Mission Statement***

*Deliver the highest quality services in the nation with integrity and respect to 100% of the funded potential eligibles to improve the health status of the WIC population as measured by health outcomes.*

The WIC State Plan is required under 42 United States Code Section 1786(f) and is submitted to the United States Department of Agriculture as a prerequisite to receiving federal funds for the Program's operation for the coming fiscal year. In order to develop the WIC State Plan for Fiscal Year 2002, program staff and stakeholders came together in June to set goals and objectives for the coming year. The group determined that no more meaningful goal could be set than to emphasize and validate the mission statement as both a comprehensive and focused goal statement for the Program. From the mission statement, the group selected four key words or phrases as indicative of the focus of the program in the coming year and likely for years ahead. These words or phrases are:

**QUALITY**

**INTEGRITY**

**RESPECT**

**SERVICE TO 100 % OF FUNDED ELIGIBLES**

The planning group was composed of the WIC Program's Bureau Chief, key staff from the Program's administrative section, the directors of the five divisions of the Program (Vendor Operations, Provider Relations, Public Health Nutrition and Education, Training and Technical Assistance, and Electronic Benefits Delivery), the directors of three support divisions closely aligned with the Program (Automation Planning Division, Financial Management Division, and the Health Communications Division) and the President and Secretary of the Texas Association of Local WIC Directors (TALWD) who represented external customers/stakeholders. Over a two-day period the group developed strategies and specific proposed actions to ensure and enhance the objective of quality, integrity, respect, and service to eligible clients in all areas of the Program.

Throughout the process, the goals, objectives, strategies, and targets for improvement found in other important strategic plans impacting WIC were considered and formed a background context within which the WIC State Plan was developed. These plans were the TDH Comprehensive Strategic and Operational Plan Fiscal Years 2001-2002 (otherwise known as the "blueprint"); the USDA Strategic Plan for federal fiscal years 2000-2005; and the Texas Health and Human Services Coordinated Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2001-2006. The WIC Program goals and objectives in this plan were developed to integrate with and reflect the vision and direction articulated in these three plans.

Some examples of the priorities set by these three plans which are incorporated in WIC's Plan are:

- increasing stakeholder involvement,
- maximizing federal funds,
- streamlining administrative services,
- enhancing services in the Colonias,
- enhancing the collection and use of health information,
- integrating health care delivery programs,
- implementing cost containment measures,
- promoting Electronic Benefits Delivery systems,
- recruiting and retaining qualified staff, and
- expanding training opportunities for contractors and state staff.

The following selected strategies and actions represent highlights of the Program's map of action in the coming year. Certain major projects already initiated will continue into Fiscal Year 2002 such as the Nutrition Services Integrity Initiative and the Electronic Benefits Delivery system. To describe them in full in this Plan would be repetitive to other approved plans. Additionally, with some exceptions, responsibilities of Program divisions which are ongoing from year to year are not described in any detail in this Plan although they are equally focused on quality, integrity, respect and continued growth in program participation.

The specific strategies highlighted in this Plan are those which each division and the group chose as significant and integral to meeting the objectives. The group agreed to a varying degree of detail within the four objectives as each task was discussed and endorsed. Not all divisions brought forward specific tasks for their strategies. Divisions and sections will closely monitor and track their own progress throughout the year and provide mid-year and end-of-year progress reports to the State Plan Coordinator and WIC Director.